31 October 2013 - The Government's 'Get Ready for Winter' web pages are now online to provide help and advice about how to prepare and stay safe this winter.

Following the success of last year's campaign and with the recent severe weather fresh in the memory, the Government launch a timely reminder of the simple steps that can be taken to keep warm, healthy and safe this winter.

The Met Office will once again host the 'Get Ready for Winter' web pages on behalf of a range of Government Departments and voluntary organisations, offering advice and links to a range of organisations to help individuals, families and communities prepare for winter. The campaign will build on last year's very successful initiative which saw thousands of people get the information they need to prepare for all weather conditions through the winter months.

Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office, said: "Building on the success of last year's 'Get Ready for Winter' initiative, government departments and our partners in the voluntary sector will again be providing comprehensive advice that will help individuals, families and communities prepare and stay safe this winter.

"From tips on preparing your property and vehicle, to the latest weather forecasts and warnings, the initiative will provide a one-stop shop for all winter weather related information"

The Met Office works closely with government departments, contingency planners and partner organisations including the voluntary sector, throughout the year to make sure they have the best advice available to help them prepare for and deal with the impacts that our weather can bring.

Simon Lewis, head of emergency response at the British Red Cross and Chair of the Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum, said: "Severe weather will undoubtedly affect thousands of people across the UK this winter and we believe it is vital they have the necessary information to help them prepare. All the charities involved are delighted to offer simple hints and tips as well as free apps and resources to help people better prepare for the winter to come."

The Scottish Government's 'Ready Scotland' campaign also aims to raise awareness of the risks that winter can bring and how people can be more prepared during severe weather.

So how can you be more prepared for severe weather?

- **Prepare** your property and vehicle ahead of winter, and take responsibility for your own safety.
- **Be aware** of the latest weather forecasts and warnings from the Met Office.
- **Be prepared** to alter your plans in times of severe weather.
- **Look after** the elderly and more vulnerable in your community.

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Last updated: 31 October 2013